

KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting, June 13, 2000

Present: Commissioners -

Sue Cone, Village of Calumet Commission Nominee
Reverend Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service -

Frank Fiala, KNHP superintendent
Brian Hoduski, KNHP interpreter
William Schenk, Midwest Regional Director

Absent: Kathryn Eckert, Commissioner, At-Large, National Park Service

Recording Secretary: Lisa Dwyer

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, June 13, 2000, at 1:30 P.M. in Calumet, Michigan at park headquarters.

Agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions or corrections.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the March 7, 2000, meeting were approved after one correction was made on page 3. The entrance fee should be \$3,000 instead of \$1,000.

Superintendent's Report

Frank Fiala reported that Fritz Rushlow, a recent graduate of the Historic Preservation Training Center and exhibit restoration specialist, would be on temporary assignment at KNHP, as project manager for two construction projects. The projects are the Union building and the C & H administrative building where park headquarters is currently located. Fiala added that Rushlow would provide a wide range of technical expertise in connection with restoration and readaptive practices to not only the park but cooperating sites as well.

Fiala introduced graduate students Heather Cabrera of Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Policy and Steve Gagnon, from the USC Marshall School of Business. They are here to develop a business plan for KNHP under the NPS's Business Plan Initiative (BPI). Cabrera and Gagnon are to begin immediately and spend the next 11 weeks developing a business plan format.

A copy outlining the BPI was distributed to the commissioners.

A video of the recent Central Mine Methodist Church 93rd annual reunion service is complete. This was done in connection with the Local Legacies project and has been placed in the Library of Congress.

The play, "Boomin Copper" will open on July 11, 2000, for a six week run on Tuesdays at the Calumet Theater.

Fiala said that an official park brochure should be ready in about one year.

KNHP, in cooperation with a citizen's group, The Friends of Agassaz Park, is co-sponsoring Heritage Days to be held on Saturday, July 1, 2000, at Agassaz Park. The Village of Calumet is also involved in organizing this activity. The emphasis will be to promote and celebrate the local heritage of the area. The day will culminate in an evening performance at the Calumet Theater by the Pine Mountain Music Festival Symphony Orchestra and White Water, a folk ensemble.

KNHP will also be participating in the CLK High School reunion July 21 and 22, 2000. The park will be conducting oral history interviews during the reunion. Staff from the NPS regional office will assist with the program. There are about 24 people scheduled for the oral history interviews.

A staff member of the State Historic Preservation Office who is responsible for the state's new historic preservation tax incentive program will be in the area the week of June 19th. Fiala has arranged for him to give a briefing June 21st on this new tax credit available to homeowners in historic districts. It is only a four-year program and it has a "sunset" clause. In order for the program to be re-authorized it must show merit by having enough people apply and take advantage of the tax incentive. Fiala said he would place an ad in the newspaper announcing the briefing.

Recent meetings have been held, according to Fiala, to discuss the potential use of the Quincy Smelter. The park introduced the concept of a visitor/orientation center at the smelter. It could be a joint effort between Isle Royale National Park and KNHP with the possibility of the Houghton Chamber of Commerce relocating at the smelter as well.

The park base budget increase has been approved by the House of Representatives and will move on to the Senate for approval. The \$100,000 budgeted for the KNHP Advisory Commission remains intact within the budget.

Fiala said KNHP would be submitting funding requests for several projects to the Cultural Resources Preservation Protection program. It is a competitive funding program. Please let Frank know if you have any ideas or projects that you would like him to submit for funding under this program.

Lynn Bjorkman has worked diligently to complete the housing survey before her employment ends on July 30, 2000, with KNHP. Fiala remarked that her completed survey will forever be useful to the management of the park. He expressed his gratitude to Bjorkman for her work on both the housing survey and the historic district ordinances currently in the works for both the Village of Calumet and the Township of Calumet. Fiala said that he intends on having Bjorkman do consulting work with the park.

Recruitment for a KNHP historical architect will begin within the next two weeks. Fiala hopes to have the position filled by August or September of 2000.

A new staff member, Abby Sue Fisher will join the KNHP staff sometime in the fall to direct work in the museum, research, and archival areas of the park.

The park has completed an appraisal on 26 acres available on Quincy Hill and will make an offer sometime this week to Quincy Development Corporation on the acreage, according to Fiala.

KNHP has made an offer to the owners of the C & H administrative building where park headquarters is currently located, but the offer was rejected. Fiala will try to determine where to go from here.

A proposal has been sent by the park in order to gain ownership of the C&H library building which is owned by International Paper Company. There hasn't been a response yet. Fiala added that the intention is to eventually move park headquarters to the C & H library building. Three lots that had originally been thought to be a part of the library building acquisition proposal were sold and are not a part of the proposal. Fiala said he didn't find out about the three lots being sold until after the fact. The lots have been purchased by Calumet Electronics. Paul Lehto suggested that perhaps a deal could be struck between the park and Calumet Electronics to obtain one or more of those lots for the park.

Fiala said that the park will commission an appraisal on Warehouse #1, the paymaster's building on Quincy Hill, and a small lot adjacent to the 26 acres in the Quincy area. Fiala said he is still working on obtaining a house located in the Quincy area. The house is a substantial structure and is significant to the Quincy Mining Company era.

Fiala was asked if there was a procedure he had to follow regarding land purchases for the park. He explained that the NPS has guidelines that it follows regarding its policy on land acquisitions. This is done in order to be fair and consistent with property owners.

Brian Hoduski reported on the progress made regarding the Comprehensive Interpretative Plan (CIP). An Advisory Commission workshop was held in March to begin planning the CIP for the park. National Park Service interpretive planners met in May for the same purpose. Hoduski explained that the process of identifying themes and connecting them to specific locations has begun. Individual service plans will be developed for each

location. Hoduski said he would supply a preliminary report on the service plans to the commissioners and cooperating sites in order to obtain their input as well.

Reports and Comments from Commissioners

Sue Cone expressed her concern about the park's community planner position left vacant now that Lynn Bjorkman is gone. Cone said that Bjorkman was a key figure in the community's link to the park. She expressed her concern of the need for the Advisory Commission to be better informed on activities affecting the park. Fiala pointed out that the commissioners are allowed to call meetings whenever they feel it is necessary over and above the quarterly meetings held each year. Cone mentioned that quite some time ago before the park was established, oral history interviews were conducted by Bresnan Communications. She asked what happened to those tapes. Reverend Langseth commented that Bresnan has somehow lost the tapes.

Tom Nemacheck asked Fiala to update the commissioners on the status of the KNHP web site. Fiala explained that each park has a web site associated with the NPS's web site. The NPS is attempting to standardize the way information is given to the public. There are some very definitive NPS guidelines on how web pages are to be constructed. Fiala explained that the intent is to have cooperating sites linked to KNHP's web site. The idea is to assist people with their plans to visit the park and its cooperating sites.

Now that the Advisor Commission has its operating powers, there was discussion on what changes are necessary to make the commission more functional as an acting body. For instance, should the commission meet more often than the quarterly meetings during the year? How should tasks be divided among the commissioners? Information on area concerns needs to be relayed in a timely manner. Fiala said that the Advisory Commission has a tremendous amount of latitude and authority now that it has its operating powers. He added that a former park service superintendent who is now an executive director in a heritage area similar to KNHP will be attending the August Advisory Commission meeting to share some of his thoughts and recommendations on how to structure the operating powers of the commission. It was agreed that it would take time to work out the details on the course that the Advisory Commission will take as it assumes its operating powers.

Larry Lankton reported on St Anne's. He said the church is undergoing some exterior renovation. St. Anne's will be open to visitors during Heritage Days and the CLK High School reunion. Lankton added that the executive director of the Americana Foundation was in the area recently and visited St. Anne's as well as other park sites. Lankton spoke of a recent meeting between Portage Health System officials and several Advisory Commission members regarding signage throughout the Quincy Unit of KNHP. Lankton distributed a copy of his follow-up report regarding the meeting. As a result of the meeting, it is hoped that a design study of signage will be conducted to determine if relatively uniform signage could be used by Portage Health System, Quincy Mine Hoist, the Seaman Museum, as well as others, and possibly KNHP.

Clyde Raasio spoke of the waterline construction currently going on in the Quincy area. Several years ago, a sewer project was done in Quincy Township and the landscape was left in disrepair. Many roads were torn up and just left. Raasio wondered if this construction couldn't be monitored in some way. Fiala said he would contact the contractor to see what the plans are for repairing damage done to the landscape by the construction. Larry Lankton added he was concerned about artifacts that might be unearthed by the construction and possibly destroyed.

Reverend Langseth suggested that an oral history should be done on the closure of the mines in the area. He noted that the role, structure, and responsibility of the Advisory Commission and the development of a business plan for KNHP are important concerns, but feels that these issues will be addressed now.

Paul Lehto reported on Calumet Township issues. The township is currently reviewing zoning ordinances. The township recently passed an ordinance requiring a moratorium on building permits along a stretch of US Highway 41 while the review is being done. Lehto said that zoning changes should aid in protecting the park and its resources. Fiala asked if there is an ordinance in the works for unkempt or unsightly buildings. There is a state ordinance for unsafe buildings according to Lehto.

Bill Schenk, NPS Midwest Regional Director, commended the commissioners for their efforts and the progress that has taken place in order to get the park where it is today and thanked everyone for their work.

[Diana Charles of U.S. Carl Levin's office spoke here, but the tape was inaudible.]

Reports, Comments, and Questions from the Public

Ed Yarbrough, manager of QMHA, reported on its activities. QMHA recently honored Burt Boyum with an awards ceremony recognizing his 40 years of work with the association. The Prime Minister of Finland visited the area recently and toured the Quincy Mine. The association is exploring the idea of keeping the mine open to visitors on weekends during the winter. Water has reached the seventh level in the mine. Initial tests show that the water is very pure and the association will be looking into ways to market the water. Yarbrough said that when Quincy Mine Company ceased underground operations in the 1940s, certain items were brought to the Quincy Smelter to be stored. Now that Franklin Township owns the smelter the association will be requesting the return of some of these items. The QMHA had a 99-year lease remaining on some of the Quincy buildings and property. The association has now purchased those sites. Professor Patrick Martin of Michigan Tech has been the consulting archaeologist for the waterline construction project. Yarbrough met with the contractors to inform them of the recommendations made by Professor Martin to prevent damage to the landscape that could occur as a result of the construction. He added that the contractors were cooperative.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 P.M.

The next meeting of the KNHP Advisory Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2000, at 9: 00 A.M. in Calumet, Michigan, at park headquarters. **PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FOR THE START OF THE MEETING.**

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Lisa A. Dwyer
Departmental Coordinator
Department of Social Sciences
Michigan Technological University
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

Phone: 906/487-2113
Fax: 906/487-2468